



Department of Justice

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MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – William Michael Newman, Jr., a 30-year-old resident of Great Falls, was sentenced today to a term of 115 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt and possession of child pornography. Newman was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200 and will be under supervision for 5 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

The Wyoming Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force initiated an undercover operation targeting peer-to-peer file sharing networks offering child pornography.

From February through April of 2005, a computer utilizing the IP address which was assigned to Newman while he was residing in Kalispell, offered to participate in the distribution of child pornography. Subsequent investigation revealed that Newman had since moved from that residence to Great Falls.

On January 12, 2006, ICE agents went to Newman's new residence in Great Falls. Newman gave the agents permission to search his computer for images of child pornography and advised them that there could be questionable images on the computer. Images of child pornography were found during the preliminary search of Newman's computer. Newman admitted that he knew the children in the photographs were under the age of eighteen and that the photographs constituted child pornography.

Forensic analysis of Newman's computer revealed numerous images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. When questioned, Newman admitted his role in receiving and possessing child pornography on his computer via the Internet.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the "truth in sentencing" guidelines mandate that Newman will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Newman does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for "good behavior." However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

“This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys’ Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.”

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